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RUFHJA/USMISSION USBERLIN 4212
RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 5797
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 0429
RUDKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 4957
RUFJCX/AMCONSUL LYON 2066
RUFJCX/AMCONSUL BORDEAUX 0962
RUFJCX/AMCONSUL MARSEILLE 4373
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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SCOM, US, FR
SUBJECT: FURTHER FRENCH MEDIA ON BARBIE REPORT
REF: A) STATE 231254, B) PARIS 30353
1. AUGUST 18 LIBERATION LEADS WITH BARBIE REPORT
STORY UNDER THE HEADLINE "KLAUS BARBIE: THE AMERICAN
CONNECTION" AND! DEVOTES THREE FULL PAGES TO STORY.
EDITORIAL, SIGNED LUC ROSENZWEIG, COMMENDS THE
COURAGE OF THE USG FOR CONFESSING ITS PAST ERRORS BUT
NOTES THE U.S. ACTION WAS TAKEN IN THE FACE OF
CONSIDERABLE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE AND SHOULD NOT

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DULL THE SEARCH FOR OTHER SUCH SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET. EDITORIAL NOTES "THE U.S. CONFESSION IS ALL THE MORE PAINFUL GIVEN THE FACT IT HAS OCCURRED IN A PERIOD IN WHICH MORALITY IS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF REAGAN POLICIES." ARTICLE SIGNED BY LIBERATION WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MICHEL FAURE RECOUNTS THE FACTS OF THE U.S. CONNECTION TO BARBIE BUT CONTRASTS WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SPEAKES' STATEMENT THAT THE REPORT PROVES THE USG DID NOT CONSPIRE TO AID BARBIE TO ESCAPE FRENCH JUSTICE WITH RYAN'S JUDGMENT THAT THE U.S. CANNOT ABSOLVE ITSELF OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY. FURTHERMORE, FAURE CONTESTS THE DATE WHEN U.S. ARMY OFFICIALS BECAME AWARE OF BARBIE'S WARTIME CRIMES, CITING AN INTERVIEW WITH ERHARD DABRINGHAUS WHICH ALLEGES BARBIE'S LYON ACTIVITIES WERE KNOWN TO THE ARMY AS EARLY AS 1948. A THIRD ARTICLE, CO-AUTHORED BY ROSENZWEIG AND AN UNAMED COLLEAGUE, MAKES THE POINT THE BARBIE CASE IS NOT ISOLATED AND THAT U.S. REVELATIONS "SHOULD INCITE A NEW LOOK AT THE TROUBLED YEARS BETWEEN THE END OF WWII AND THE BEGINNING OF THE COLD WAR." AUTHORS POINT OUT, IN PARTICULAR, THE RISE OF REINHARD GEHLEN TO THE HEAD OF THE B.N.D., SIMON WIESANTHAL'S CHARGES OF EX-NAZIS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GDR AND THE ROLE OF THE VATICAN AND THE RED CROSS IN SPIRITING NAZIS TO SOUTH AMERICAN SAFETY.

2. LIBERATION'S COVERAGE CONCLUDES WITH INTERVIEWS WITH ELIE WIESEL AND BARBIE'S DEFENSE LAWYER JACQUES VERGES. THE WIESEL INTERVIEW APPEARS UNDER THE TITLE "AS AN AMERICAN, I AM ASHAMED, AS A JEW, I AM DISGUSTED". WIESEL, WHO WAS INTERVIEWED DURING A BRIEF PARIS STOPOVER, IS QUOTED AS SAYING THERE SHOULD BE NO TIME LIMITATION ON PROSECUTION FOR THOSE WHO PROTECTED BARBIE. WIESEL SAYS HE WILL PROTEST TO THE PRESIDENT ON HIS RETURN TO THE U.S. VERGES, INTERVIEWED BY TELEPHONE, IMPLIES THE REPORT LEAVES MUCH UNSAID AND THAT U.S. RELATIONS WITH BARBIE "ARE MORE COMPLEX AND OF LONGER DATE" THAN ADMITTED. IF THIS FURTHER INFORMATION IS USEFUL TO THE DEFENSE OF BARBIE, IT WILL COME OUT AT THE TRIAL, HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID.

3. COMMUNIST DAILY YHUMANITE" CHARACTERIZES U.S. "REGRET" AS CROCODILE TEARS" AND THE REPORT AS AN INGENIOUS DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN. HUMANITE MAINTAINS, CONTRARY TO THE REPORT'S FINDINGS, THAT BARBIE REMAINED IN THE EMPLOY OF THE CIA IN BOLIVIA. LIKE LIBERATION, HUMANITE COMPARES BARBIE AND HIS U.S. CONNECTION TO THE POST-WAR CAREER OF GEHLEN.

4. THE CONSERVATIVE "QUOTIDEIN DE PARIS" LAUDS THE REPORT IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "BARBIE: EVERYTHING MUST BE SAID" AUTHORED BY JEAN-FRANCOIS DUPAQUIER. DUPAQUIER CALLS ON THE GOF "TO SHOW THE SAME COURAGE AS WASHINGTON"BY CLEARING UP THE QUESTION OF FRENCH COLLABORATION WITH BARBIE DURING THE OCCUPATION RATHER THAN BY SIMPLY "DEPLORING" THE USG-BARBIE CONNECTION

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AS DID GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN MAX GALLO.

5. LE PARISIEN" LIBERE" CARRIED A SHORT, FACTUAL
INSIDE STORY AND "LE MATIN," RETURNING BRIEFLY TO
THE CASE, DISTORTED YESTERDAY'S GOVERNMENT STATEMENT
IN AN INSIDE HEADLINE "THE DEPLORABLE PRACTICES OF
THE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT."

6. CURIOUSLY, MAJOR NATIONAL CONSERVATIVE DAILY

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SCOM, US, FR

SUBJECT: FURTHER FRENCH MEDIA ON BARBIE REPORT

"LE FIGARO" HAS NOT MENTIONED THE REPORT.

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